

a flexible, vibrant



GHETTO BLASTER

When one stares at the old Ericsson Factory in Broadmeadows, the feelings are hardly positive ones. Rust, barbed wire and rubbish litter what is left of a once thriving industrial sector.

Research has led to the conclusion that there is a link between affordability and the class that lives in a certain area. Making an area **cheaper** to live in, will result in a poorer class inhabiting it, and hence will lead to an increase in **undesirability**. It is worth pointing out the difference between a "**slum**" and a "**ghetto**" here. Slums are generally regarded as low income regions within a town or city, whereas a ghetto is the congregation of similar ethnic groups in an area. It is true that often a ghetto fits within a slum environment due to their comparative low income, however ghettos tend to be considerably hostile places, evoking fear and danger.

What needs to be designed is a flexible, vibrant **GHETTO BLASTER!**

The challenge will be to develop a foundation that allows **affordable** living and that also provides a **safe** environment for its inhabitants. The other considerations which must be met is the immediate **context** to the site; industrial warehouses, detached houses and a new primary and secondary college.

Research into **vibrant** neighborhoods and what makes them so, will be vital to the success of this project. Also, the ability to **flex** its uses and configurations, will be of utmost importance. This will mean the development of **modular living systems** and the possible formations and layouts of these.

Investigation will be undertaken into developing a sustainable **procurement model** for the inhabitants, such as the development of a **self-sufficiency** within their immediate communities. An active involvement in their community will increase pride and hopefully will reduce the chance of creating yet another Broadmeadows ghetto.

Another possible method for creating a vibrant community is to develop a self-sustaining **music program** and appropriate venues to do so; hence part of the reasoning behind the "**Ghetto Blaster**" title of this piece. As the site in its current form is quite populated by existing warehouses, the retention and conversion of these into performance venues and other such facilities will aid in increasing the vibrancy of the neighborhood.

The goal is to create a **sustainable community**, offering a **safe, vibrant** environment to live in, while being **affordable** and **desirable**.